Engineering seats

1374. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total engineering seats available would cross 55,000;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at least 16,000 to 18,000 seats are likely to remain vacant; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), there are 5,39,105 engineering seats available in AICTE approved technical institutions in the country. The admission process in most of the States is still going on. Therefore, at present the information on vacancy of seats is not known.

School-based cadre system of appointment

1375. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned about teachers' absenteeism at elementary school level, Government have decided to move to a school-based cadre system of appointment;

(b) if so, whether teachers will now be appointed by schools and will be permanently attached to the same school;

(c) whether as per Centre's Model Right to Education Bill, 2006 which will have to be adopted by all States, has made it mandatory for all Government schools to move to a system of school-based cadre; and

(d) if so, to what extent it will help in meeting the shortage of teachers and improve the education standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In pursuance of Article-21-A of the Constitution introduced through Constitution (Eighty Sixth Amendment Act), 2002, which seeks to make Free and Compulsory Education a fundamental right for all children in